

926 Grand Ave
Rockford Ills
Dec 6th /44

My dear Mr Watson:—

I breathe easier!

The Billings for the Mammal are
all written out in the rough.

Now I will have time to come
back to portions here and there
in a spirit of cold criticism.

I first thought out a re-arrangement of the species which
I ~~think~~ ^{feel confident} is an improvement.

This regrouping alone would have
necessitated re writing the whole
business. I wrote out the
descriptions first from the
specimens in my herbarium—
in some instances, a whole

Prigem hole full of a single
species - then I collated with
the descriptions of Carey, Anderson
Horton, Marsh - Michaux - &c - to see if
I could find a happier turn of
words to express the idea - and to
make sure I had not overlooked
something important - Next in
arranging the species synoptically
as far as possible I cut out of each
~~description~~
~~one~~ the characters which admitted
of being lumped - then I went
over the whole and pruned for
the sake of eliminating superflu-
ities, - of course I am not through
yet - but I can safely assure you
that you can have the MS any
time you may call for it - Such
being the case I shall want to
send it on to you in time
that any changes which you

editorial revision may necessitate
may be properly made -

I will give you the why's
and wherefores of the changes I
have introduced when I thank
you the MS for inspection -
and will be glad to receive
from you suggestions and
corrections - On this account more
than many other I desire all the
news beyond Jan 1st - I can
get - for if you must send the
papers to the printer by Jan 1st
then I must send them to you
almost immediately - or there would
be no time for me to know if
I had taken too much space
or something of that sort - I have
cut out so many of Carey's

Dec. 28

groups and inserted others of my
own that I scarcely know how
much my account will surpass
his in number of words -

Furthermore in the Circutae group
there were three species to add.

I never realized till this work
forced me to a criticism of Mr
Perry's grouping, how far ^{this alone} ~~it~~ may
have been the cause of so much
difficulty ^{encountered} ~~on the part~~ ^{by} of students
in naming, one most common
species - Our Willows have always
appeared to the average student such
a bad lot I have felt somewhat justified
in giving a little more space to their
elucidation -

Yours very truly
W. S. Dobb